

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 3 and 5. Please amend Claims 1, 7, 10, and 15–18. Please add new Claims 19–22. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the Application:

Claim Listing

1. (Currently Amended) A network router to route Internet [[P]]protocol (IP) data packets comprising:
 - a plurality of trunk ports, including a composite port of plural ports to plural trunks ~~which that~~ serve as a composite trunk to a common destination;
 - a routing fabric configured to transfer [[the]] an IP data packet[[s]] between the plurality of trunk ports; [[and]]
 - a routing table configured to use a destination IP address of the IP data packet to route the IP data packet by determining a composite output trunk; and
 - an output port selector configured to use ~~a destination IP address~~ the determined composite output trunk and information stored in a packet descriptor of the IP data packet[[s]] to select an individual output port of the composite output trunk port for the IP data packet[[s]] ~~from the composite port, the output port selector balancing load across the trunks of the composite trunk,~~ the output port selector comprising a forwarding table having plural entries to each individual output port and dynamically balancing load by dynamically weighting a number of entries to each individual output port route to the common destination, each entry in the forwarding table being dynamically rewritable to a different individual output port.

- 2–6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method of routing Internet [[P]]protocol (IP) data packets in a network router comprising:
- identifying a destination of ~~[[the]]~~ an IP data packet[[s]];
 - using a destination IP address of the IP data packet to route the IP data packet by
 - determining a composite output trunk;
 - using an output port selector for selecting ~~one of plural trunks forming a~~
composite trunk to the destination an individual output port of the composite output trunk
for the IP data packet based on the determined composite output trunk and information
stored in a destination IP address of a packet descriptor of the IP data packet[[s]], the
output port selector comprising a forwarding table having plural entries to each individual
output port and dynamically balancing load by weighting a number of entries to each
individual output port, each entry in the forwarding table being dynamically rewritable to
a different individual output port; and
 - the trunk being selected according to a table, routes in the table being dynamically
rewritable for a load to approach balance across the trunks; and
 - forwarding the IP data packet[[s]] via a routing fabric toward the a common
destination on the selected individual output port trunk.
- 8-9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim [[5]] 7 wherein the IP data packet[[s are]] is routed under an Internet protocol.
- 11-14. (Canceled)
15. (Currently Amended) The network router as claimed in Claim 1 wherein ~~dynamically~~ weighting the number of entries favors a shortest route to the destination.
16. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim [[5]] 7 wherein ~~dynamically~~ weighting the number of entries favors a shortest route to the destination.

17. (Currently Amended) The network router as claimed in Claim [[3]] 1 wherein a first dynamically rewritable route in the forwarding table is configured to be rewritten with a second dynamically rewritable route in the forwarding table.
18. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 7 wherein a first dynamically rewritable route in the forwarding table is configured to be rewritten with a second dynamically rewritable route in the forwarding table.
19. (New) The network router of Claim 1 wherein the routes in the forwarding table are dynamically rewritable for a load to approach balance across the forwarding table.
20. (New) The method of Claim 7 wherein the routes in the forwarding table are dynamically rewritable for a load to approach balance across the forwarding table.
21. (New) The network router of Claim 1 wherein the information stored in a packet descriptor includes an IP data packet header, a pointer to the IP data packet, an output trunk, and a route selector.
22. (New) The method of Claim 7 wherein the information stored in a packet descriptor includes an IP data packet header, a pointer to the IP data packet, an output trunk, and a route selector.